

N A T U R A L

R E S O U R C E S



# FINAL

Environmental  
Impact  
Statement

# HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

October 25, 1996



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands  
Kaleen Cottingham - Supervisor





October 15, 1996

Dear Interested Party:

Attached is a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed incidental take permit and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR has developed an HCP as an alternate method of complying with the Endangered Species Act on the 1.6 million acres of forested state trust lands that lie within the range of the northern spotted owl. These lands are managed under state law by DNR to benefit several trusts. The HCP is part of DNR's application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for an incidental take permit and unlisted species agreement, under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. The permit would allow incidental take of listed species in the course of management activities on these 1.6 million acres. The unlisted species agreement would cover species that may be listed for protection in the future.

According to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Act, the draft HCP, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the draft Implementation Agreement were made available for public review. During the formal public comment period that ended May 20, 1996, five public hearings were held around the state and numerous written comments were received.

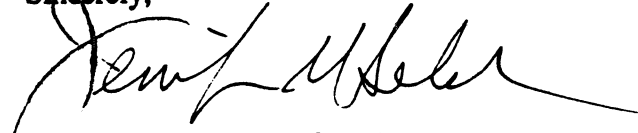
The attached Final Environmental Impact Statement summarizes and responds to these comments. Resulting modifications to the HCP, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the Implementation Agreement are also included.

Through the environmental review process, DNR's proposal and other reasonable alternatives were analyzed, evaluating the effects of the proposed action on issues and concerns such as threatened and endangered species and their habitats, other wildlife and their habitats, physical environmental factors, and effects on other elements of the human environment.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be available for review until December 2, 1996. For additional information, please contact William Vogel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3704 Griffin Lane SE, Suite 102, Olympia, WA 98501; Chuck Turley, DNR, P.O. Box 47011,

Olympia, WA 98504-7011; or Steve Landino, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3773 Martin Way E., C-101, Olympia, WA 98501.

Sincerely,



**JENNIFER M. BELCHER**  
Commissioner of Public Lands



**CURT SMITCH**  
Assistant Regional Director  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**ELIZABETH GAAR**  
Habitat Branch Chief  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency  
U.S. Department of Commerce

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# State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

## Fact Sheet

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**Title:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Habitat Conservation Plan

DNR is proposing a habitat conservation plan (HCP) as a resource management strategy to assure long-term sustainable revenue for the trusts, health of the forest resources, and compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The HCP will continue implementation of the agency's chief policy and management document, the 1992 Forest Resource Plan. The HCP applies to approximately 1.6 million acres of DNR-managed forested trust lands within the range of the northern spotted owl. The proposed action, as defined in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), is the adoption of the HCP by the Board of Natural Resources.

**Proposed by:** Washington State DNR

**Lead Agencies:**

Washington State DNR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Marine Fisheries Service

**Board of Natural Resources:**

Jennifer Belcher, Commissioner of Public Lands  
Judith Billings, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Dorothy Duncan, County Commissioner representing the Forest Board Counties  
David Thorud, Dean, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington  
Bob Nichols, Executive Policy Division, OFM - designee for Governor Mike Lowry  
James Zuiches, Dean, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Washington State University

**Responsible Official:** Terry Kirkpatrick, Acting Division Manager, Forest Resources Division

**Authors and Contributors:** For the full list of preparers, refer to Chapter 5 of the Draft EIS.

**Licenses Required:** No licenses are required to prepare and implement the proposed plan. An incidental take permit and unlisted species agreements were requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Site-specific activities conducted under the plan may require Forest Practices permits, hydraulics permits, and other licenses.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement Date of Issue:** March 22, 1996

**Public Comment Period:** March 22 - May 23, 1996

**Locations and Dates of Public Hearings:**

Vancouver	April 15, 1996
Spokane	April 16, 1996
Seattle	April 18, 1996
Port Angeles	April 30, 1996
Olympia	May 6, 1996

**Final Environmental Impact Statement Date of Issue:** October 25, 1996

**Contact Person and Written Testimony:**

Chuck Turley  
DNR - Habitat Conservation Plan  
PO Box 47011  
Olympia, WA 98504-7011

Please include the SEPA No. (94-042501) when corresponding about this project.

**Proposed Adoption Date:** Fall/Winter 1996

**Reference Material and Data Located at:**

Department of Natural Resources  
Resource Planning and Asset Management Division  
1111 Washington Street SE  
PO Box 47014  
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

**Subsequent Environmental Review:** The draft plan is considered a "nonproject proposal" (under WAC 197-11-442). It describes a plan for forest trust lands within the range of the northern spotted owl rather than site-specific activities. DNR recognizes that subsequent environmental review of proposed site-specific actions may be necessary at a future time but has not identified specific future activities or times. This FEIS will be used as appropriate to meet DNR's future responsibilities under SEPA.

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# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

## Cover Sheet

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**Title of Proposed Action:** Issuance of a Permit for Incidental Take of Federally-Listed Species and Implementation of the Multi-Species Plan for Lands Managed by WADNR within the range of the northern spotted owl.

**Responsible Officials:**

Mr. Thomas J. Dwyer Deputy Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 911 NE 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97232	Mr. William Stelle, Jr. Regional Director National Marine Fisheries Service 7600 Sand Point Way NE Seattle, WA 98115
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**Contact:**

Mr. William O. Vogel and Mr. Craig Hansen U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 3773 Martin Way East Building C, Suite 101 Olympia, WA 98501 (360)534-9330	Mr. Steven W. Landino Habitat Branch National Marine Fisheries Service 3773 Martin Way East Building C, Suite 101 Olympia, WA 98501 (360)534-9330
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For DNR's responsible official and contact, see the SEPA Fact Sheet on preceding page.

**Legal Mandate:** Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Section 10(a), as implemented by C.F.R 17.22(b)(1) & 17.32(b)(1)

**Applicant Name:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
1111 Washington Street SE  
PO Box 47000  
Olympia, WA 98504-7000

N A T U R A L

R E S O U R C E S

**F I N A L**

Environmental  
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**HABITAT  
CONSERVATION  
PLAN**

October 25, 1996

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Washington State  
Department of Natural Resources  
1111 Washington ST SE  
PO BOX 47000  
Olympia WA 98504-7000  
(360) 902-1000

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# Acronyms

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<b>C.F.R.</b>	U.S. Code of Federal Regulations
<b>CWD</b>	Coarse woody debris
<b>dbh</b>	Diameter at breast height
<b>DCA</b>	Designated Conservation Area
<b>DEIS</b>	Draft environmental impact statement
<b>DNR</b>	Washington Department of Natural Resources
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental impact statement
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act
<b>ESU</b>	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
<b>FEIS</b>	Final environmental impact statement
<b>FEMAT</b>	Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team
<b>FRP</b>	Forest Resource Plan
<b>FSEIS</b>	Final supplemental environmental impact statement
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic information system
<b>HAU</b>	Hydrologic analysis unit
<b>HCP</b>	Habitat conservation plan
<b>IA</b>	Implementation agreement
<b>ITP</b>	Incidental Take Permit
<b>LOD</b>	Large organic debris
<b>LPU</b>	Landscape planning unit
<b>LSR</b>	Late-Successional Reserve
<b>LULC</b>	Land Use/Land Cover (DNR GIS data layer)
<b>LWD</b>	Large woody debris
<b>MPL</b>	Major Public Lands (DNR GIS data layer)
<b>NAP</b>	Natural Area Preserve
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>NRCA</b>	Natural Resource Conservation Area
<b>NRF</b>	Nesting, roosting and foraging habitat
<b>OESF</b>	Olympic Experimental State Forest
<b>RCW</b>	Revised Code of Washington
<b>RMZ</b>	Riparian management zone (as defined in WAC 222)
<b>SEA</b>	Special Emphasis Area
<b>SEIS</b>	Supplemental environmental impact statement
<b>SEPA</b>	State Environmental Policy Act
<b>U.S.C.</b>	U.S. Code
<b>USDA</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture
<b>USDI</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior
<b>USFS</b>	U.S. Forest Service
<b>USFWS</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>WAC</b>	Washington Administrative Code
<b>WAU</b>	Watershed administrative unit
<b>WDF</b>	Washington Department of Fisheries (merged into WDFW in 1994)
<b>WDW</b>	Washington Department of Wildlife (merged into WDFW in 1994)
<b>WDFW</b>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>WFPB</b>	Washington Forest Practices Board
<b>WRIA</b>	Water resource inventory area



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